



Hands of Compassion

A Ministry of the Rochester Church of Christ



**840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902**



Hands of Compassion Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!



On May 8th, 2026 we had our official ribbon cutting ceremony! What an amazing event that was made possible through a lot of prayer, hard work, and incredible support from you. So many of you have donated money, written encouragement cards, and have prayed for our ministry as we have gone through the process of raising funds and constructing the addition.



We cannot thank you enough for all the many ways you have supported and built this ministry. People are in awe when I tell them that this ministry started in the homes of people from the Rochester church of Christ. Our ministry has now grown into one of the largest hospitality ministries in Rochester. That can only happen with the hand of our loving Father, who has opened His blessings and has been here with this ministry every step of the way. A Scripture that we have quoted frequently throughout the fundraising period is Psalm 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." We have felt God's hand throughout the process, and what a blessing it is to see the house that God built. We have had many challenges placed in our path, but through His grace, we are able to see the finished product. As you have done this entire time, please continue to pray for our ministry as we move to a new era of the Hands of Compassion. Our first house was opened in May of 1985, and 41 years later, we are opening it again. God's love carries us through so many paths, but we believe and trust that He will continue to use this ministry to make a difference.

If you would like to see the ribbon cutting ceremony in its entirety, scan the QR code above or visit our website at www.hocrochester.org.



**Dave Reynolds
Contractor**



**Gary Byram
Board President**



**Jim Smelser
Board Member**



**Phillip Quelle
Ministry Chaplain**



**Kim Norton
Rochester Mayor**

Moving to the Next Stage



One of the beautiful things happening at the Hands of Compassion is that life has begun to return to normal in our houses. Over the course of the last year, we have been largely taking reservations in our original house, but this spring, that began to change and slowly but surely, we have become fully open in our main house. As previously advertised, we now have four main floor rooms, and every room is now accessible via elevator. This makes a tremendous difference as we reach out to patients and caregivers who are struggling to find housing while being evaluated and treated at the Mayo Clinic.

One of the most special things that have come out of the last few years are ice cream socials on the porch. In the wintertime, we largely use our dining area, but early summers in Minnesota can be quite cool. So once a week, we will congregate on the porch for ice cream and fellowship. The large porch we now have is an amazing place where our guests can congregate, eat ice cream, and socialize with one another and create bonds that can last a lifetime.

We frequently see people congregating in so many different places in our houses. People often congregate in our dining room, where they will sit and eat their meals, and sometimes just chat. Sometimes, they are found in the common living room, watching TV, playing the piano, or sitting at our game table. On the second floor, there is also a new conversation area, where guests can often be seen doing puzzles or playing games with one another. This newsletter is currently being written in the new Chaplain's office next to the living room, where guests can come in to talk and pray with the Chaplain or other staff in a private area. It truly is a wonderful thing to see all of the beautiful things that we envisioned when planning the build, becoming a reality for our guests in this new home away from home.

We also have an incredible staff who is overseeing the ministry here at HOC. Mike & Sheila have been wonderfully serving with us since 2022. This year, as we are growing our house, we are also growing our staff! Larry & Diane Stephens as well as Doris Hoffman, have moved into their apartments here at HOC and are now serving alongside Mike & Sheila. We are so blessed to have all of them here in Rochester! With a new house also comes new titles.

For years, the caretakers of our houses have been called Houseparents. Now they have taken on a new title and will be called Hospitality Ministers for the future.

And lastly, you will notice that on the next page there is no fundraising thermometer! The money needed to pay the contractor is all there! We do continue to have registries on our website that will let you know our current needs. Also, with a bigger facility and more staff, expenses are also going up and operations of the ministry become more important than ever! We cannot thank you enough for all you have done. Please help us with the transition by continuing to pray for and donate to the operations of this ministry. We cannot do it without you.

Memorials & Honorariums February 1 – May 31

Honorariums

Stone Griffin

Don & Sharon Walker

Gabe Griffin

Don & Sharon Walker

Stacy Sikes

Sandi Thurmond

Jason Rainier

Martha Childress

Larry & Diane Stephens

Patricia Poirier

Allayah Walker

Don & Sharon Walker

Dallas Walker

Don & Sharon Walker

Daniel Walker

Don & Sharon Walker

Daunte & Taylor Walker

Don & Sharon Walker

Memorials

Carol Adamisin

James & Pamela Larsen

Joan Asmussen

Eagle Mountain Construction

Sue Hardisty

Gary & Wendy Byram

John Hindman

Sandi Thurmond

Michael Phipps

Gary & Wendy Byram

Larry & Janice Prater

David & Mary Burkhardt

Pam Sedlacek

Sandi Thurmond

Lou Shireman

Bill Shireman

Jessica Sikes

Bill Shireman

Angela Smith

Linda Overton

Robert & Marion Stinchfield

Troy & Linda Sheridan

Rhonda Stinchfield-

Mashburn

Elizabeth Stinchfield-Dahling

Bill Thurmond

Sandi Thurmond

Marcus Marion Stracener

Glenn & Shirley Jobe

Toni Vaughn

Roy & Thelma Kirkpatrick

Bill Shireman

Karen Watson

Bill Shireman

Hospitality Ministry

There are many ways to help us out. Pray for our ministry! Donate supplies or Hy-Vee gift cards that can be used for our guests. Also, parking cards for people who struggle with having money to park at Mayo can be very helpful.

You can also reach out to us if you have an interest in being on our contact list to potentially come on as staff openings are available. If you have an interest in any of these things, reach out to us by email at:

ministry@hocrochester.org

Honor A Loved One

Honor a loved one by having a room in our house donated in their honor. This can be done with a \$50,000 donation to our ministry. This is a wonderful way to memorialize or honor someone you love! If you are interested in this, reach out to us by email at ministry@hocrochester.org

How Can I Help?

There are a number of ways to give to the Hands of Compassion Ministry. You can donate by mail to the return address of this newsletter, use the “donate”

QR code, or visit

www.hocrochester.org to

donate electronically. You can also use the website to find information on donating through a Will. Or help us out by donating through our expansion house registry using this QR code or by visiting:

www.hocrochester.org/expansion-house-registries/



Employer Matching Through Benevity

This can be a great way to double your donations to the Hands of Compassion by getting your employer involved in this ministry!

To use Benevity, use the QR Code or go on the web to:

<https://mygoodness.benevity.org/community/cause/840-411754278>





Partners in Compassion

For monthly or one time donations go to www.hocrochester.org/donate or use the QR code provided. You can also tear this off and mail your donation to:

Hands of Compassion Ministry
840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902



Donate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

What an Amazing Place!

When my family and I moved here in 2014, we did so with a mixture of excitement and apprehension. Excitement because I was coming to take a job that was incredibly unique and that I couldn't wait to get started in. Apprehension, because we were leaving family and friends behind, who we were going to miss tremendously. Our move to Rochester, though, was the best move we could have made. This church and this ministry have been such a blessing to myself and my family, and I truly am thankful that we moved to Rochester. Some of you whom I have met in this ministry have become amazing friends. The time has come, though, to step down from my role as Chaplain, and take on a new role here in Rochester. Steve Sikes has done a phenomenal job as preacher at the Rochester church of Christ for almost 13 years, but is now looking to retire from the pulpit job here in Rochester (although he will remain here serving the church in other ways).

As a result, I will be taking his place come September. I am not leaving Rochester or HOC behind, however, as I will be joining the board of directors and very much staying involved with this incredible ministry!

As a result of this transition, we are now looking for a new house Chaplain to see to the spiritual needs of our ministry. I can honestly say that this is truly an incredible ministry job, and I'm praying that God will send the right person to this medical mission field here in Rochester. I know that you will love this position as much as I do. If you are interested in applying for the position, please send in a picture and resume to hoc840president@gmail.com. Thank you all for 12 amazing years!

– Phillip Quelle



Contact Information for Donations & Reservations

Email: ministry@hocrochester.org

Address: 840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902

Website: www.hocrochester.org

To request a reservation visit our website and select the tab "Request A Stay"



Come See Us On Facebook at:
House of Compassion - Rochester

